

**Introduced by Senators Correa and Alquist  
(Coauthors: Senators DeSaulnier and Maldonado)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Beall, Galgiani, Huffman, Portantino,  
Salas, Smyth, and Torres)

March 23, 2009

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 4—Relative to Alzheimer’s disease.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 4, as introduced, Correa. Alzheimer’s Silver Alert program.

This measure would urge the President and Congress of the United States to act to establish a federally controlled Alzheimer’s Silver Alert program to locate missing persons with dementia and establish a federal grant program to aid states in establishing local Silver Alert programs.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, At least 5.2 million Americans suffer from
- 2 Alzheimer’s disease, a progressive and fatal brain disease that
- 3 causes loss of memory and verbal, sensory, and other cognitive
- 4 functions; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Sixty percent of patients with Alzheimer’s disease
- 6 will wander away from home and only 4 percent of those will be
- 7 able to find their way back unassisted; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Half of seniors and others with dementia who
- 9 wander away from home, on foot or in a car, sustain injury if not
- 10 found within 24 hours; and
- 11 WHEREAS, The senior population has been steadily growing
- 12 and the aging of the baby boomer generation will likely increase
- 13 the number of persons suffering from dementia, thereby increasing
- 14 the number of persons injured or killed while wandering; and

1 WHEREAS, A new type of missing persons program, know as  
2 Silver Alert, has been developed and adopted by several states and  
3 has resulted in the safe return of a majority of persons with  
4 dementia reported missing; and

5 WHEREAS, Legislators from other states are discussing  
6 proposals for Silver Alert programs for introduction in 2009; and

7 WHEREAS, A nationally coordinated program, similar to the  
8 Amber Alert program for missing children, could promote best  
9 practices, based on ideas and experiences of existing states' Silver  
10 Alert programs, and spread those best practices to other states,  
11 resulting in a national program incorporating the media and law  
12 enforcement; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
14 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the President and  
15 Congress of the United States to act to establish a federally  
16 controlled Alzheimer's Silver Alert program to locate missing  
17 persons with dementia and establish a federal grant program to aid  
18 states in establishing local Silver Alert programs; and be it further

19 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
20 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
21 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority  
22 Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from  
23 California in the Congress of the United States.